

TASK FORCE 1-34 AR
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

01 October 2003

Centurion Families,

TF Centurion has been busy the last three weeks. Task Force Centurion arrived in Kuwait the first two weeks of September 2003 and immediately began preparations at Camp New York for onward movement into Iraq. The initial focus for the Task Force was receiving and preparing all the Task Force's equipment and conducting rehearsals and inspections of soldiers and equipment.

On 16 September 2003, the TF began the 600 kilometer movement to our area of operations in Iraq. At 0715 hours on 17 Sep 2003, the lead elements of TF Centurion crossed the Iraqi border. The road march, which covered nearly 600km, took between 3-4 days for each convoy. The Task Force arrived at our new home, Camp Manhattan, "the little apple of the Middle East" in a small town west of Baghdad. All soldiers are living in buildings. We have contracted to improve twelve separate areas. The contract was for over \$200,000, and the repair work began this week. The town is several square miles, and it held at one time 50,000 people. The landscape has palm tree lined streets and some hedge rows of flowering plants. The base is in the Euphrates river valley. It is a very nice contrast to the open desert a few miles to the south. The post is deserted except for a family of 43 Iraqis.

Once settled in, the Task Force began working with 3 ACR in preparations for a permanent transfer of authority. Companies received briefings on the area and conducted right seat rides in order to familiarize their soldiers with the area we would be operating in. On 25 Sep 2003, TF 1-34 AR conducted Transfer of Authority on Camp Manhattan with 3rd ACR and assumed responsibilities for our Area of Operations.

Hellraiser assumed responsibilities for base camp security, to include gate guard and observation points around Camp Manhattan. HHC is also responsible for the “Mayors Cell”, which coordinates all quality of life issues for Camp Manhattan. HHC is the lifeblood of the task force ensuring all soldiers eat, shower, and have all of the necessary supplies and equipment to operate successfully. Medics have an aid station operational. We put a lot of miles on our vehicles. Therefore the maintenance teams remain well employed. Scouts and Mortars conduct missions in support of the task force daily.

Team Apache assumed duties as the base camp QRF (Quick Reaction Force), with the mission of responding quickly in the Area of Operations in support of units conducting patrols. Team Apache also provides security to a town which is just to the west of Camp Manhattan. Part of Apache 1st Platoon, Apache is with the 82nd Airborne Division and part is with 1-16 Infantry at Junction City, providing armored security for those units.

Cobra has begun security operations of routes and communities north of Camp Manhattan. Their focus is on conducting reconnaissance and security patrols of routes in our area to ensure the safety of the residents and friendly units that travel them.

Blackhawk has joined Task Force Centurion from Fort Hood. They also have begun reconnaissance and security operations near Camp Manhattan.

Bulldog has begun engineer operations in support of the Task Force. These operations include improving security around the base camp and improving the overall landscape of Camp Manhattan.

Bounty was attached to the Iron Rangers prior to movement. Bounty also provides armed convoy escorts for their convoys. The Bounty soldiers are living in *Junction City*. They immediately began training and reconnaissance missions.

Overall, quality of life for soldiers of Task Force Centurion is improving every day. The Division is working very hard to assist us in improving the quality of life for our soldiers on Camp Manhattan. We have hot meals twice a day, laundry service once a week, and ice. The leadership of the Task Force is committed to ensuring that soldiers see improvements in the base camp everyday. Morale remains high and every soldier is dedicated to accomplishing the mission of advancing the civil process for the Iraqi people and eventually creating a free Iraq.

I am proud of the soldiers of Task Force Centurion. We have already made a positive difference in the local area. Although this will be a long and difficult process, the soldiers remain focused professionals. Our training has proven effective, and we are determined to succeed.

DUTY FIRST! CENTURIONS!